NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the present policy of transfer of connections, if a consumer wants to transfer the connection from one city to another, a termination voucher has to be obtained after surrendering the equipment to the concerned distributor. A connection can be obtained on production of the termination voucher in the city where the connection is desired. Only in cases where the transfer of connection is within the city from one area to another on account of shifting of residence, the customer is permitted to take the equipment along with him without depositing the same with the concerned distributor. Since the transfers from Delhi to Faridabad, Noida and Ghaziabad are transfers from one city to another, the customers are not permitted to take the cylinders alongwith them at the time of the transfer of residence.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration at present, for reasons of handling cylinders and equipments and prevention of irregularities in the operation of distributorships.

Installation of Petrol Pumps on National Highways

2966. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations/ guidelines of the Indian Road Congress for the installation of Petrol Pumps on National Highways;

(b) the number of Petrol Pumps on National Highway No. 8, New Delhi installed as per these provisions;

(c) the number of Petrol Pumps violating the rules of Indian Road Congress out of the above number; and

(d) the details of the violation committed by these Petrol Pumps; and action taken/proposed to be taken against the owners of these Petrol Pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Private Companies for Development of Oil and Gas fields in Gujarat

2967. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of oil and gas fields in Gujarat were offered to the private companies for development;

(b) whether response of private companies to take up the development of oil and gas fields gas been poor; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the manner in which Government propose to encourage the private companies to take up the development of oil and gas fields in Gujarat;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) The number of oil and gas fields in Gujarat offered to private companies for development in the first and second offers were 18 and 13 respectively.

(b) Bids were received for all the 18 small-sized fields in the first offer and for 4 medium sized and 8 small sized fields in the second offer.

(c) Does not arise.

State-wise Allocation of LPG

2968. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1251 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd August, 1994 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry instructed various oil companies to enroll

20 lakh new LPG customers and provide 20 lakh DBCs during the year 1994-95; and

(b) if so, what are the State-wise allocations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Allotment of new LPG connections and release of DBCs is not made on a State-wise basis. New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending upon the availability of LPG, total new customer enrolment, waiting lists, slack available with the distributors and their viability. LPG customers of the public sector oil companies interested to have a second cylinder are required to get their names registered with the concerned distributors. The distributors release second cylinder on a first-cum-first served basis, subject to availability of quota.

Levying the Oil Development Cess

2969. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives behind levying the Oil Development Cess;

(b) the extent to which these objectives have been achieved;

(c) the present rate at which the Oil Development Cess is being levied; and

(d) the total amount at present in the Oil Development Cess fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Oil Industry Development Act, 1974 provides for a levy of cess on indigenous crude oil and natural gas as a duty of excise, to be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India, and the Central Governmeny may, if parliament by appropriation made by law in this behalf so provides, pay to the Oil Industry Devleopment Board from time to time from out of such proceeds such sums of money as it may think fit for being utilised exclusively for the purposes of this Act, viz. for the devleopment of oil industry, and for matters connected therewith.

(b) Since the inception of the Act and upto March, 1994, the Oil Industry Devleopment Board has provided loan assistance of Rs. 5175.00 crores to the Oil Industry to supplement its resources for meeting capital and operational requirements. During this period, grants-in-aid to the tune of Rs. 93.11 crores were also disbursed for oil sector activities.;

(c) The present rate of levy of cess on crude oil is Rs. 900.00 per tonne.

(d) As on 31.3.94, the total accumulation in the Oil Industry Development Fund was Rs. 3007 crores.

Production of Natural Gas from Bombay High

2970. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether natural gas is being produced alongwith crude oil in the Bombay High;

(b) if so, the quantity produced during 1993-94 and the manner in which it is proposed to be utilised for industrial purposes;

(c) whether any pepelines are being laid for the supply of natural gas of Bombay High from main land to terminals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.